

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Keith Hoene et al.

Serial No.: 09/887,816

Filed: June 25, 2001

Docket No.: 10007759-1 (H303.210.101)

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMPUTER NETWORK VIRUS EXCLUSION

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 4-5, 12-13, and 23.

Please amend claims 1-3, 6-11, 19-22, and 24-27 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of network computing:

using a server with a virus monitor to identify a at least one client computer that is infected with a virus or susceptible to a virus by verifying that the at least one client computer has at least one of a first combination of a client-server connection and a disabled status of a virus protector of the at least one client computer and a second combination of an attempted client-server connection and a non-enabled status of the virus protector of the at least one client computer; and

isolating the at least one virus-infected client computers and virus-susceptible client computers from the server and from a computing network connected to the server by at least one of terminating the client-server connection for the at least one client computer having the disabled status of the virus protector and preventing the attempted client-server connection for the at least one client computer having a non-enabled status of the virus protector.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the using a server step further comprises:

scanning the at least one client computer with a virus monitor of at least one of the server and the at least one client computer.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the isolating the at least one client computer step further comprises:

tracking a client identifier of the at least one virus-infected and virus-susceptible client computers; and

preventing thea client-server connection and a network communications between the at least one virus-infected client computers and virus-susceptible client computer relative to and the computing network.

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4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method of virus-controlled network access comprising:  
using a server of a network with a virus monitor, via a server-initiated communication, to identify at least one client computers that fails to produce an approved virus scan report; and

isolating the at least one client computers not having ~~without an~~ the approved virus scan report from authorized communication with the server.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining a virus-controlled network computing system comprising:

booting a at least one client computer to establish a client-server connection with a server and to perform a scan by the at least one client computer of the at least one client computer for a virus;

reporting the results of the virus scan from the at least one client computer to the server; and

selectively permitting the at least one client computer authorized access to the server through the client-server connection when the virus scan report detects no viruses and denying the at least one client computer access to the server when ~~a virus is detected or no~~ valid virus report is provided by the at least one client computer.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein booting the at least one client computer and further comprising comprises:

establishing the client-server connection based on the at least one client computer maintaining a virus protector of the at least one client computer in an enabled mode.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 ~~8 wherein the terminating step and~~ further comprising comprises:

querying the client periodically to determine if the virus protector of the at least one client computer remains enabled.

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10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 and further comprising:  
terminating the client-server connection if the virus definitions of the virus protector of the at least one client computer have not been updated within a specified date criteria of the server.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing network virus migration within a network comprising:  
monitoring a virus susceptibility of each client computer of the network based on at least one of whether a virus protector of the client computer is enabled and whether the client computer provides a server of the network with a valid virus scan report; and  
tracking each virus-susceptible client computers and preventing a client-server connection between each virus-susceptible client computer and the server.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the tracking each virus-susceptible client computer and preventing step further comprises:  
terminating the client-server connection for at least one of each virus-susceptible client computer and each virus-infected client computer.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein ~~tracking and preventing step~~ further terminating the client-server connection comprises:  
identifying an address of each virus-susceptible client computer and each virus-infected client computer to selectively prevent further client-server connections with ~~these~~ each virus-infected client computer and each virus-susceptible client computers by establishing a quarantine of the ~~each virus-infected~~ identified client computers and each virus-susceptible client computer.

16. (Original) A virus exclusion network system comprising:  
a client computer including a virus protector;

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a network server including a virus monitor configured for preventing an authorized network connection between the client computer and the server when the client computer fails to produce at least one of a report of an up-to-date virus scan of the client computer and a confirmation of enablement of the virus protector of the client computer.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the client computer further comprises:  
a virus protector for scanning the client computer for viruses.

18. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the virus monitor of the server further comprises:

a virus protector for scanning the client computer and files written by the client computer.

19. (Currently Amended) A server comprising:

a controller;

a virus monitor including:

a virus protector with a scanning function;

a virus definition source; and

a quarantine monitor configured for preventing a client-server connection for at least one virus-susceptible client computers that are virus-infected or virus-susceptible by verifying that the at least one virus-susceptible client computer has at least one of a disabled virus protector and a lack of a virus protector and configured for tracking an identity of those the at least one virus-susceptible client computers.

20. (Currently Amended) A client computer comprising:

a controller;

a virus protector configured for detecting and eradicating viruses on the client computer, for maintaining real-time virus protection, and for producing a virus scan report to a server to confirm that the client computer is virus-free and for notifying the server that the virus protector is enabled, and thereby eligible to connect to the server with authorized access privileges.

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---

21. (Currently Amended) A computing network virus monitor comprising:

a virus protector;

a quarantine monitor configured for preventing network communications to a server of a network originating from each client computer that is virus-infected or that is virus-susceptible by having at least one of a disabled virus protector and a virus definition set that is not up-to-date, and configured for tracking an identity of ~~those~~ each virus-infected client computer and each virus susceptible client computers.

22. (Currently Amended) A virus quarantine monitor of a server comprising:

a client computer identifier;

a virus identifier; and

a blocking mechanism configured for signaling the server to prevent client-server connections with at least one client computers identified as being ~~virus-susceptible or virus-infected or being virus-susceptible~~ by having at least one of a disabled virus protector and an out-of-date virus definition file of the virus protector.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of preventing network virus migration within a network, the method comprising:

monitoring a virus susceptibility of each client computer of the network based on at least one of whether a virus protector of the client computer is enabled and whether the client computer provides a server of the network with a valid virus scan report; and

tracking virus susceptible client computers and preventing a client-server connection between each virus-susceptible client computer and the server.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of network computing, the method comprising:

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using a server with a virus monitor to identify a at least one client computer that is infected with a virus or susceptible to a virus wherein identifying the at least one virus-susceptible client computer includes verifying that the at least one client computer has at least one of a first combination of a client-server connection and a disabled status of a virus protector of the at least one client computer and a second combination of an attempted client-server connection and a non-enabled status of the virus protector of the at least one client computer; and

isolating the virus-infected client computers and virus-susceptible client computers from the server and from a computing network connected to the server by at least one of terminating the client-server connection for the at least one virus-infected client computer or the at least one client computer having the disabled status of the virus protector and preventing the attempted client-server connection for the at least one virus-infected client computer or the at least one client computer having a non-enabled status of the virus protector.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of monitoring network connections, the method comprising:

preventing an authorized network connection between a client computer and a server when the client computer fails to produce at least one of a report of an up-to-date virus scan of the client computer and a confirmation of enablement of the virus protector of the client computer.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of quarantining client computers in a network, the method comprising:

preventing a client-server connection for each virus-infected client computers and ch ~~that are virus-infected or virus-susceptible client computer~~; and

tracking an identity of ~~the~~each virus-infected client computer and each virus-susceptible client computers.